In set forth in more detail below, applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's rejections as to every pending independent and dependent claim on multiple grounds. Most notably, applicant asserts that the all of the references of record, and specifically the cited references relief upon by the examiner, fail to teach the invention as claimed because the references of record do not describe, disclose, or even remotely suggest applicant's inventive flashing strips or assemblies as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, and 16 and as further claimed in each dependent claim therefrom.

More specifically, applicant's new and novel flashing devices are generally "V" shaped and tightly joined together with releasable clinch joints in a configuration that: (1) maintains the strips and assembly in the attached configuration until released, (2) prevents the accumulation of moisture and debris between the strips as joined, and (3) establishes much improved roof-top installation capabilities that now require far fewer fasteners than has ever been possible with any prior art flashing devices, including all of such devices described and contemplated by the prior art references of record in this application.

In view of these considerations, applicant asserts that all claims are allowable over the art of record and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicant also requests that the following amendments and arguments be entered in the pending application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The changes to the specification are particularly described in the attached Appendix A.

1. On page 10, at line 10, replace the entire paragraph starting there and continuing to page 11, line 6 with the following OCR compatible paragraph:

In the flashing assembly **100**, the flashing sections **120** are joined together by at least one clinch joint **150** that is substantially formed upon the overlapping edge portions **140** of at least two different overlapping flashing sections **120**. The clinch joint **150** is formed to have a different overlapping edge portion **140** of different respective flashing sections **120** to be registered proximate to and over one another to form the overlapping arrangement of edge portions **140**. While the different, respective edge portions **140** are maintained in the overlapping relationship with one another, the clinch joint **150** is then created. The clinch joint **150** is preferably adapted to be releasable and to securely fasten the at least two sections **120** together. While secured, the respective flashing sections **120** are held together by the joint **150** until forcibly released by a user or installer of the flashing assembly **100**. As will be understood by those with skill in the art, the clinch joint **150** also prevents relative movement of the individual flashing sections **120** with respect to one another once the assembly **100** has been installed. Therefore, fewer fasteners are required to attach the assembly **100** to the roofing structure. Additionally, in contrast to some prior art devices that included only an adhesive joint that is susceptible to cracking, deterioration, and subsequent shifting of the individual segments or cards, the device according to the present invention avoids such movement. Moreover, except as otherwise noted with respect to the distinguishable adhesive joint of instant invention, and even without a sealing adhesive between edge portions **140**, no interstice can form after the deterioration of and in the absence of the prior art adhesive. As a result, no unwanted moisture or other debris can accumulate between the edge portions **140**.

REMARKS

1. §103(a) Obviousness Rejections of Claims 1-24

The examiner rejects claims 1 through 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,337,526 to Hartman in view of U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,237,288 and 4,897,912 to Jenkins et al. and Slasinski, respectively. Applicant hereby asserts that all of the rejected claims,